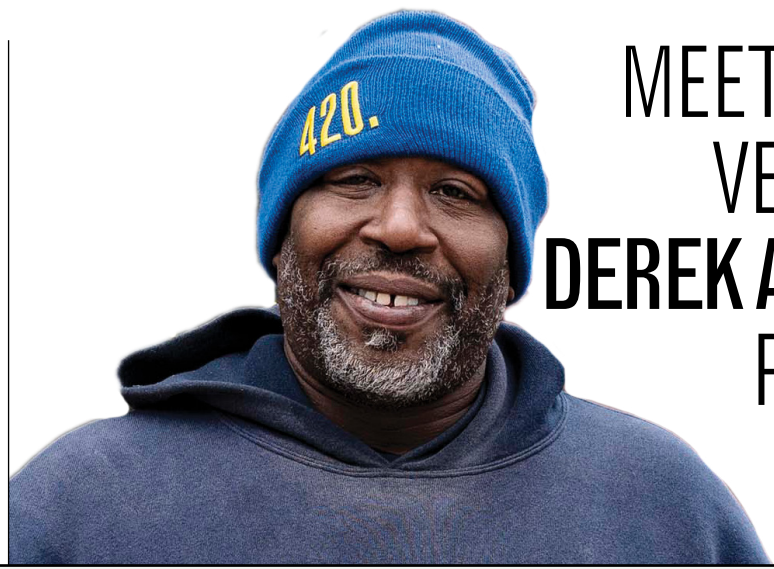


\$2

DECEMBER 2021 | VOLUME 12 | ISSUE 12

YOUR DONATION BENEFITS THE VENDORS.
PLEASE BUY ONLY FROM BADGED VENDORS.

Inside look at the Daytime Warming Center: community, comfort and a cup of coffee. **Page 4**



MEET YOUR
VENDOR:
DEREK ALLEN,
PAGE 3

GROUNDCOVER

NEWS AND SOLUTIONS FROM THE GROUND UP | WASHTENAW COUNTY, MICH.



Redressing mistakes and
reestablishing trust in Washtenaw
County. **Page 2**

Washtenaw County Commissioners, the Prosecuting Attorney and members of National Organization of Exonerees together after the passage of a resolution to establish a permanent Conviction Integrity and Expungement Unit. Photo credit: Hailu Shitaye.

THIS PAPER WAS BOUGHT FROM

venmo



@groundcovernews, include vendor name and vendor #

Redressing mistakes and reestablishing trust in Washtenaw County

LUIZA DUARTE CAETANO
Groundcover contributor

Having to deal with the law can be intimidating, to say the least. If you're being punished, it's downright scary, but even when the law is there to help you, figuring out the details of what you can do, and how to do it, still isn't easy. The now permanent — as of November 5 — Washtenaw County Conviction Integrity and Expungement Unit is an acknowledgement of that difficulty. It is also an open admission that the law is not infallible.

Directed by former Innocence Project attorney Frances Walters, the CIEU is a part of the prosecutor's office dedicated to help Washtenaw residents navigate new Michigan laws on expungement and conviction integrity. What that means is less complicated than what it sounds like, but in any case, the CIEU is there to guide you.

Expungement: Is your criminal record getting in the way of your housing, job or school applications? Well, you may not have to worry about that anymore. Since April, you might be eligible to hide those offenses from public view. That's what expungement means — even if they remain visible for the government and law enforcement officials, many items in your criminal record can be erased so as to not appear in searches made by the public. Most marijuana and traffic offenses, for example, can be expunged immediately once you apply, and some expungements will actually be granted automatically starting in 2023.

It is important to keep in mind that there are rules and limits as to *which*, *how many*, and *when* offenses are eligible to be expunged. There is no guarantee that your application will be

successful. Still, you can count on the CIEU to help you understand what options you have, and that's already something.

Conviction Integrity: In a recent interview, Washtenaw County's prosecutor Eli Savit said that a wrongful conviction is more than the worst mistake that a prosecutor or even the judicial system can make; rather, it's the grossest injustice that the government itself can commit.

The CIEU makes it the duty of the prosecutor's office to prevent and correct wrongful convictions. Innocence claims and requests to have new evidence investigated by the prosecutor's office can now be filed through the CIEU. If they find that there's reason to think that a person has been sent to jail wrongly, the case can be taken to court again and that person may be cleared of all charges and released.

On November 16, I went to Ypsilanti to check out an expungement event partially organized by the prosecutor's office. After reading about the CIEU to write this report for Groundcover, I wanted to see what that looked like in practice. As I walked into the Ypsilanti Freighthouse, where the event was held. From community organizations' volunteers to staff from the prosecutor's office, everyone I spoke to was there simply to help. Eli Savit, Victoria Burton-Harris and Frances Walters circulated talking to people, answering questions and just assisting whoever approached them.

When I asked Walters what the CIEU was about, she explained that one of its goals is to restore trust in the judicial system. "Everyone is fallible," she said. This goes for both people and the system.

Expungement acknowledges that

people make mistakes, but those mistakes should not permanently define who they are. Erasing their offenses means that they are free to start anew, without the stigma incurred by something available publicly at a few Google-searches' distance.

Conviction integrity allows people to come forth from behind the impersonal structure of law and order and help redress systemic flaws that resulted in unjustified convictions. More than restoring trust in civic institutions, then, the CIEU is about the hope of restoring the trust between people, inside and outside of the system.

The judicial system moving towards being more accountable for and redressing its own mistakes is a huge victory. This is illustrated by the case of Larry Darnell Smith Jr., who was wrongly incarcerated for 26 years and

finally exonerated by the Wayne County Conviction Integrity Unit.

Since 2016, Michigan's Project Clean Slate has shown that expungement of smaller offenses can make a big difference, too. Project Clean Slate has brought life-changing results, from the chance to access better employment, to not bearing the stigma of being defined as a criminal. As one of its beneficiaries stated, "I have more respect for myself. My family is so proud of me. Today, I am going forward in life without having to worry about my conviction. Today, I am a free man."

As I was leaving, Walters urged me to make information about the CIEU widely available and share her contact information: CIEU@washtenaw.org and 734-222-6620. "If you have any questions," she said, "just reach out."



FIRST BAPTIST
CHURCH OF ANN ARBOR

WORSHIP — SUNDAYS, 10:00 AM

IN PERSON AND ONLINE

(FACEBOOK.COM/FBCA2)

SMALL GROUPS, FELLOWSHIP, CHRISTIAN EDUCATION FOR ALL
AGES, SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES, MUSICAL EVENTS.

FBCA2.ORG

734-663-9376

517 E. WASHINGTON

REVS. PAUL AND STACEY SIMPSON DUKE, PASTORS

GROUNDCOVER

Mission

Creating opportunity and a voice for low-income people while taking action to end homelessness and poverty.

Lindsay Calka — publisher

Michael Corrigan — resource specialist

Cynthia Price — editor

This month's contributors

Elizabeth Bauman
Luiza Duarte Caetano
Jim Clark
Christopher Ellis
Jay Gordon
Calle Harwin
Hosea Hill
James Manning
NAMI Washtenaw County
Ron Pagereski
Ken Parks
Will Shakespeare
Denise Shearer
Adrie Smith
Kevin Spangler

Office volunteers

Jessi Averill
Logan Brown
Luiza Caetano
Ian Dewey
Glenn Gates
Robert Klingler
Ayden Riley
David Winey
Mary Wisgerhof
Max Wisgerhof
Payton Watt
Navya Yagalla

Proofreaders

Susan Beckett

Yarden Katz
Sandy Smith

Story and photo submissions

submissions@groundcovernews.com

Advertising

contact@groundcovernews.com

Contact us

groundcovernews.org

[facebook.com/groundcover](https://www.facebook.com/groundcover)

twitter.com/groundcovernews

instagram: @groundcovernews

Office: 423 S. 4th Ave., Ann Arbor
P: 734-263-2098

MEET YOUR VENDOR



Derek Allen,
vendor No. 177

In one sentence, who are you?
I am Derek Allen.

Where do you usually sell Groundcover News?
I sell Groundcover on Main and Liberty.

What is your favorite spot in Ann Arbor? By the river at Gallup Park.

What motivates you to work hard selling Groundcover News?
Paying bills and meeting people.

What is your favorite thing to do in Ann Arbor? Music.

What is your superpower?
An out-going personality.

What's the worst thing about selling Groundcover News?
The people that say that they are going to pay for a paper on Venmo but never pay.

What words do you live by?
Live life to the fullest.

What is something about you that someone on the street wouldn't know?
I am a music artist.

What would YOU ask?

If you have a question or issue you would like Groundcover vendors to discuss, email us at contact@groundcovernews.com

We will be featuring vendor responses in future issues.

Standing Rock — memories and lessons from Thanksgiving 2016

Standing Rock reservation is southwest of Bismarck, North Dakota. For the descendants of Sitting Bull, Crazy Horse and Black Elk, the rocks are the grandfathers who look over the land and the people. The indigenous ancestors of the 19th century spoke of the 7th generation that would rise up to defend water and land with the fearless love that comes from a clean heart.

The Keystone XL Pipeline was designed to transport Canadian Tar Sands oil — the most abrasive substance one can think of — to the Gulf Coast. It was planned to run straight through Standing Rock reservation.

Oceti Sakowin is the name of the camp that invited everyone to celebrate Thanksgiving 2016 and the unity of the people who defend the water from the pipeline. Thousands responded and had the experience of indigenous-centered self government.

Every day began with the Elders call at 7 a.m. to gather at the Sacred Fire of Oceti Sakowin and participate in smudging with sage and communion with blessed water. The Elders spoke with the indigenous wisdom that resonates with all brave hearts who are inspired to respect and protect life. Those with the experience and commitment to walk the talk.

We then went to the Cannonball River which was the Frontline for the pipeline. Ceremony is central to every activity in the struggle to live with a sacred view. Water Ceremony, conducted by the Grandmothers and their assistants, was the first activity on the Frontline.

The Michigan Camp had 5 large tents including a kitchen tent. Lee Sprague organized the Michigan canoe team which took people to the other side of the Cannonball River where the pipeline construction was happening on a bluff above the river. This is all treaty land but the U.S. Bureau of the Interior and the Army Corps of Engineers give permits according to bureaucratic investor-friendly procedures.

Some arrests and violence by mercenary police military (privatized, corporate goonsquads) were Frontline, but others were made by agents who posed as Water Protectors, in order to lure Water Protectors into arrest. Red Fawn went to prison because her boyfriend was actually an agent and his own gun was evidence against her. He was too good to be true.

I must mention December 5, 2016. Five thousand U.S. military veterans came to witness and express solidarity with the Water Protectors. It began



KEN PARKS
Groundcover vendor No. 490

with a forgiveness ceremony for the centuries of war crimes against indigenous peoples of the earth. The veterans lined up facing some 500 armed mercenaries and police ready to take them on with great confidence in victory. That is when the Grandmothers spoke: LISTEN TO US. WE HAVE BEEN IN THIS STRUGGLE FOR 500 YEARS. YOU NEED TO CONSIDER WHAT THEY HAVE BEEN THROUGH TO BE OK WITH WHAT THEY ARE DOING!

There are historic moments when things become very clear. The challenge is to carry this clarity and resolve into everyday life. What are you doing and what are the results?

There are many days in the struggle for freedom when the low points appear so long and permanent that despair leads you to the abyss and the void is endless. It takes some nerve to face this with awe and respect.

If you practice the courage of acceptance and a natural breath, there will be some experience of the clear light nature. The energy of obstacles becomes the music of liberation. It's okay to be at home with yourself. Embrace yourself and others. Opportunity will arise. Be prepared to hear NO many times before you hear YES. Get ready to share whatever you have. Your pure presence is the most precious gift.

I first met Lee Sprague at the 50th anniversary of the March 1965 teach-in at the University of Michigan. For me, his presence at the five days of events in March 2015 was the highlight among many to honor and promote teach-ins. The awareness of settler colonialism may have new names as the structure of privatization takes on global and all-pervasive dimensions.

"Neoliberal imperialism" is my choice but whatever you call it, Lee was clear that no understanding of climate chaos was possible; that indigenous people have seen climate change, have seen French, then British and now American occupation, and would still be here when the occupation ends.

I did not see Lee at Standing Rock in 2016 but I did bond deeply with Beatrice Menase Kwe Jackson at Water Ceremony and accepted the invitation to go back for Water Ceremony on February 22, 2017 on the Frontline of the Cannonball River. The corporate state security apparatus had announced this as the day the camp would be wiped out. I assisted Beatrice in whatever needed to be done. We completed that mission by passing out strawberries on the ice of the Cannonball River in full view of the militarized corporate security forces and the ever-present chopper noise of many helicopters. It was a flashback to scenes of "Apocalypse Now." (Beatrice is active on Facebook.)

Lee Sprague was back at the University of Michigan as a presenter for a conference convened by School of the Environment and Sustainability in collaboration with the Native American Student Association. It was pre-Covid-pandemic and now ripe for rebirth as we consider the lessons of sarscovid2, climate chaos and the design gridlock we experience in our daily life. The unanimous conclusion of that conference was that the task before us is the decolonization of the University of Michigan. "The Colonizer and Colonized", the landmark book by Albert Memmi is good preparatory work. The current special edition of Groundcover needs examination in this light. I was not involved with the \$10 Student Voices edition but would not be surprised if young people have little awareness of what happened before they got their hands on the wheel. When you are driving it is easy to accept that the car and the road appeared magically just for you. So where do we come from and where are we going?

Decolonizing the body is necessary to discover the freedom of motion that comes from our natural power. Then we will act together in organizing the work that connects us in creative productivity. There is no shortage of good work that needs to be done. Prepare now. Read "The Port Huron Statement."

Let us work to end the fear pandemic and learn how to face reality together with the love that knows no enemies but transforms everything. Pause for a fresh breath often. Discover the Elders around you. There is someone waiting for you. Bring the Community Commons of Ann Arbor to life and be amazed.

Inside look at the Daytime Warming Center: community, comfort and a cup of coffee

There were only two requests made of the various faith communities when creating the Daytime Warming Center: a spacious area and coffee. Sheri Wander, the Coordinator of the Warming Center, had searched for places that would be willing to host homeless people during the day. A spacious area to relax and a cup of coffee, believe it or not, “is the thing that makes the Warming Center work,” said Ben Foster, Volunteer Coordinator of The Center.

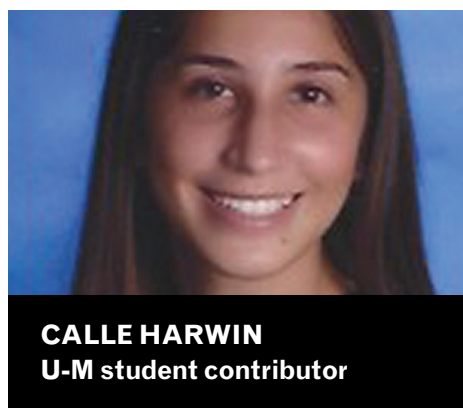
The Warming Center originated during the polar vortex of 2014 when temperatures were consistently 15-20 degrees below zero. Although the Robert J. Delonis Center, the main homeless shelter in Washtenaw County, provided temporary shelter, it was too small for the community's demands. The Delonis Center includes a nighttime warming shelter, which allows overflow homeless people to sleep on mats; however, they are woken up early and asked to leave for the day. Due to severe weather, the Delonis Center dropped their weather amnesty to ten degrees, meaning that when the temperature reached ten degrees or lower, folks were allowed to stay in the shelter for warmth. But, this was a strict ten degrees. So, where were they supposed to go if temperatures were to rise to a frigid eleven degrees?

Wander and others took the matter into their own hands and approached their first faith community: St. Mary's Student Parish. To their surprise, the church agreed to allow homeless individuals to occupy their basement during the day for the coldest weeks of winter. After five weeks, Father Dan — the priest at St. Mary's Student Parish — and Wander evaluated the situation. Thankfully, Father Dan promised to put a good word in for the Warming Center at other churches in the Ann Arbor community under one condition: a staff person must be hired.

Immediately, Wander and others went to the county and the city and asked for money to hire a staff person. After going through an interview process, Wander was asked to fill the position herself.

The Warming Center has blossomed since its inception. This year, the Warming Center is running from December through March, switching locations every month.

The Warming Center, as Foster puts it, is “for the homeless community, run by the homeless community.” Foster explains how, upon entering the Center, it might be hard to differentiate those who volunteer from those who



CALLE HARWIN
U-M student contributor

are homeless. Wander happily recalled an instance when a volunteer approached her and said, “I’m not sure who’s homeless and who’s a volunteer.” That is the point. The Warming Center differs from other shelters in the sense that it is an autonomous space and is democratically self-governed.

The homeless community is completely responsible for the daily operations of the center and the supervision of the staff. Upon entering the Warming Center, each person signs a community contract, agreeing that they will behave properly while at the Center. Wander explains that no matter “if you see yourself as a guest, if you see yourself as a staff person, a volunteer, if you’re the pastor of the church...[or] if you’re the mayor who wants to come visit,” it is a requirement that you sign the contract. The contract states that the Center is a place that equalizes everyone. Every person is held accountable for making sure others are doing what they are supposed to and acting on their best behavior.

The Center has community meetings at least once a week in which every homeless person and/or volunteer is highly encouraged to participate. Beyond these weekly meetings, anyone is welcome to call a meeting at any time throughout the week. Reasons for calling the meetings could include resolving a fight or any other urgent matter. These meetings ensure that peace and safety are paramount.

The volunteers and people of the Washtenaw County community are the glue that holds the Warming Center together. These volunteers and community members take time out of their schedules to come and give their various services to the guests at the Warming Center. The Center has hosted volunteers who give yoga classes, hair cuts, massages, manicures, baking lessons and who share arts and crafts tips. They even assist with job applications and resumes. Activities and helpful lessons like these

are greatly appreciated and are a large fraction of what makes the Warming Center so unique.

When the COVID-19 pandemic hit, however, activities like these came to a halt. There wasn’t a question of whether the Warming Center was open to happen, but there was a question as to where. Many churches were very resistant to hosting. Journey of Faith was the first church to bravely open its doors to the Warming Center. Thankfully, this set off a domino effect and other hosting sites began to open up.

COVID-19 protocols at the Center included wearing masks and taking temperatures. Even if people did show symptoms upon entry, they were still allowed to enter but went straight into isolation. However, this was a rare occurrence.

Though there were not many restrictions at the Center during the pandemic, Wander explained that the biggest adjustment was that, if you already had housing, you could not come to the Center. In the past, the Warming Center had never refused those with housing, but this restriction had to be put into place. Wander expressed her sadness for having to place this restriction, as those who are newly housed tend to feel isolated from their community. She thinks of the newly housed as a “stabilizing force” because they understand how the Warming Center works and can relate to those who are utilizing the Center’s services.

The Warming Center’s sense of community is really what makes it so different from any other homeless shelter. The people who utilize it, whether as a guest or volunteer, are there to help and lift each other up. Foster told the story of a man who carried his guitar with him everywhere as “music was his passion.” Sadly, someone at The Center destroyed his guitar, which angered everyone because they knew how much the guitar meant to him. Volunteers and guests raised enough money to buy him a new guitar within thirty minutes!

DAY TIME WARMING CENTER 2021/2022			
December 2021 JOURNEY OF FAITH 1900 MANCHESTER ANN ARBOR MI 48104		January 2022 ST MARY'S STUDENT PARRISH 331 THOMPSON ST, ANN ARBOR, MI 48104	
February 2022 FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH 517 E WASHINGTON ST, ANN ARBOR, MI 48104		March 2022 TBD	

The DTWC is a place for everyone. Every person is held accountable for making sure others are doing what they are supposed to and acting to ensure peace and safety for everyone.



Wander related the story of an older woman who regularly experienced delirium while sleeping. She explained that one day two people stumbled into the Center screaming at and shoving each other. To stop their fighting, every single person in the room stood up and formed a physical wall so that they could not reach each other. The older woman, who was disrupted from her sleep, went up to one of the men and softly said, “Young man, that is not the way we behave here.” Between collecting money for a new guitar and building a wall to halt a fight, it’s evident that the Warming Center has created a community where people are treated like family.

The Warming Center was created to ensure that everyone had a place to go during the coldest months of winter. It is a place people can enter with confidence, knowing that they will be treated equally. Those who utilize the Center are fortunate to have access to its valuable resources and the strong community that it provides between guests, volunteers and other residents of Ann Arbor.

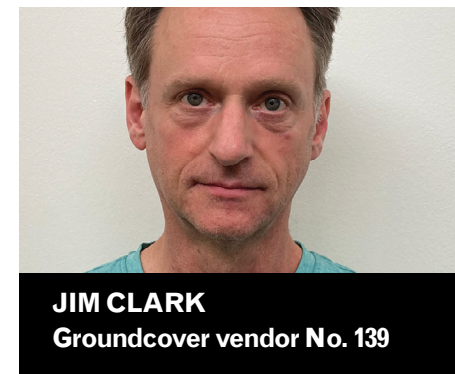
Wander’s only two initial requests were for an area where homeless people could rest and enjoy a cup of hot coffee. The entire team at the Warming Center achieved so much more. Many folks come to the Center for a nap and a cup of coffee but stay because of the loving, strong and unique community that has been built over the past seven years.

Cold front: How to dress, how to donate

Early October of this year, I was caught in the rain while on a bike ride. At first the rain was gentle but very quickly became heavy and cold. The wind began blowing hard and I realized there was a cold front coming in. I was soaked and cold, but I had a place to go to get warm and dry.

I was homeless in 2019 and so had a keen awareness of people who were in that storm but who had nowhere to get respite from the weather. Winter was coming, and with it the dangers of the cold. I thought about a friend who lost their toes to frostbite. I’ve heard stories of people dying from hypothermia. Having slept outside in an early Michigan spring, I experienced hypothermia myself. If it weren’t for a friend who slept by my side to keep me warm, I might have died.

One advantage I had when I was



JIM CLARK
Groundcover vendor No. 139

homeless in the winter was my experience with weather gear. I was dressed for winter and was well insulated against the cold most of the time. Unfortunate circumstances caused me to lose most of my gear. As I became connected to the homeless community support network, I found places with free clothing and some had high quality winter clothing. Finding the right coat, gloves, hats, socks and

footwear can mean keeping toes and surviving winter.

Many people donate handmade items like knit scarves or hats. Any gift is appreciated; however, to be effective, it has to hold up to precipitation and sub-zero temperatures. Remember, being homeless may mean being out in this weather for hours at a time, with no retreat if there are health threatening conditions.

If you are good at bargain hunting, brands like Eddie Bauer, LL Bean, and Carhartt can sometimes be found at places like the Salvation Army, Value World, or Plato's Closet. These are the kinds of clothing donations that will make a real difference when it comes to helping protect those of us who are stuck out in the cold.

NUTRITIOUS MEALS FOR SENIORS

Washtenaw County Senior Café locations provide seniors with the opportunity to receive nutritious meals and meet others in the community. The following locations and schedule will resume on January 1, 2022:



Program: Turner Senior Wellness Program
Location: Turner Senior Resources Center
2401 Plymouth Road, Ste. C, Ann Arbor, MI 48105
Frequency: Tuesdays and Fridays, 12pm
Contact: Call to make reservations at 734-998-9353

Program: Senior Café

Location: Pittsfield Senior Community Center
701 W. Ellsworth Road, Ann Arbor, MI 48108
Frequency: Mondays (pick up) between 11:30am - 12:30pm
for brown bag or frozen meals for the week
Contact: 734-822-2117



Program: WISE at the J
Location: JCC of Ann Arbor
2395 Birch Hollow Dr. Ann Arbor, MI 48108
Frequency: Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday at 12pm
**We offer programming after lunch. Please call to learn more.*
Contact: 734-217-2833

Program: Milan Seniors for Healthy Living (MSHL)
Location: 45 Neckel Court Milan, MI 48160
Frequency: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 11:45am - 12:45pm
Contact: 734-508-6229



Program: Ypsilanti Township 50 and Beyond
Location: 2025 E. Clark Road, Ypsilanti, MI 48198
Frequency: Monday - Friday, 12pm - 1pm
Contact: Call to make reservations at 734-544-9800



Program: Chelsea Senior Center
Location: 512 Washington Street, Chelsea, MI 48118
Frequency: Monday - Friday, 12pm
Contact: 734-475-9242



<https://bit.ly/SeniorCafes>

What's Happening at the Ann Arbor District Library

Open 10am-8pm Daily

- Browse books, movies, CDs, art prints, tools, and more!
- Study and meeting rooms open
- Find out more at aadl.org

Stream Movies with Your Library Card

- HBO films like *Chernobyl*, *Baltimore Rising*, and *The Plot Against America*
- Ken Burns documentaries like *The National Pastime* and *Unforgivable Blackness*
- Hit series like *Finding Your Roots with Henry Louis Gates Jr.*, and *StarTalk with Neil deGrasse Tyson*
- See what we've got at aadl.org/streamingvideo

AADL FEATURE EVENT

BLACK LIVES MATTER DISCUSSION SERIES

My Sister, the Serial Killer

Thursday (Dec. 16) 6pm on Zoom

The Black Lives Matter Discussion Series seeks to encourage and support community members in their exploration of and engagement with works that provide insight on anti-Black racism. Learn more and see past discussions at aadl.org/blmdiscussionseries

Sometimes positive thinking is the only thing you have

Equality, human rights and a fair world are — in reality and fact — a distant fabricated dream, the product of all of us who fantasize about a world where we are treated with fairness and dignity. I don't need the better part of my life having been a struggle to achieve anything approaching contentment, to know that a simple fact of life is that equality and fair treatment may not be untrue, but are rare enough that it's foolish to ever expect.

For the past several years I've had dozens of unfortunate situations and events along with a trauma that has impacted me so severely there is no way I could ever explain it, nor can I imagine anybody who could possibly understand. Sadly, reality is reality, and reality is that I have been knocked down so hard and left injured so badly that my life is against a wall and this very paper you're reading is the only means of income I seem to have any right to. I also know the world isn't short on people who would take this away from me if they could. The only realistic thing I can do is be grateful for what forces of good grace me and try to keep my thoughts positive despite the negative things that will always win the day if you let them.

Anybody who knows me understands that I don't like critiques of me — good or bad. I just don't like being in any spotlight. I especially don't like to be seen as a whiner and complainer. Unfortunately that makes writing for this paper a bit challenging.

It is hard to avoid being too opinionated about life among the economically challenged. In any case, this article is about a subject that most if not all of us have heard of: the power of positive thinking, mind over matter and the like.

With the holidays and all its welcome frustrations, it's generally for most people a festive and joyful time of the year. For others it can be more like a metaphor of the weather — cold, bleak, gray and depressing. I fall into the latter category, but I try to view things in a better



JAMES MANNING
Groundcover vendor No. 16

light than what is usually available.

I'm in no way saying people everywhere are screwed up to the point they need to change their thinking. However I would say trying to be positive can never hurt. Unless a person is somehow pure evil and melts from it, I'd say it's harmless. Most people know about positive thinking. The power it can have over many aspects of life. People have all kinds of reasons and situations for putting this into practice. You might notice I use the word "try" a lot, because nobody ever said staying positive is a breeze.

In this world, money is everything. Period. If — like myself — you don't have much of it, you're treated accordingly, which normally isn't oozing with love. Selling Groundcover is the only means of income open to me. I've been used for free labor several times so I don't trust employers and I also am healing a physical injury that causes me a great deal of pain. Work is all but out and I could dwell on the fact that odds are against me in a rigged game. However, by doing that, I accomplish nothing and I'll just continue to be miserable which is basically my default mood. Instead I try to be grateful that I have Groundcover as an option to make some income because I truly have nothing else. I also try to understand where others are coming from and accept that people will judge me harshly and with bias. But I have the final say whether or not to take such an unfair treatment personally. My attempts at positive thinking, I believe,

are the reason I have any form of sanity to speak of, much more still remain alive.

I'm by no means a very positive person. My life, compared to the average person, is a joke I find absolutely no humor in. Staying positive is the only defense I have from acting accordingly to the hateful jabs people take at me every single day. Getting kicked when you're down comes to mind.

The hardest judgement that takes all my will power to dismiss is the belief countless people project towards me: that I deserve everything I have gone through. And it's a fact that I can be charged and convicted in an unfair trial and go to prison for life all because of my situation in life. It's not comforting but still I find myself grateful that it hasn't happened yet. Some readers might find all this screwed up but you have to remember that when you're left with nothing but your thoughts, what you call a real bad day with people being mean to you is business as usual for me. For myself, mental health is a hellish struggle.

And if I don't find a way to get over it,

keep my head up and continue working, all those negative people who lash out with death glares, hatred and even downright blatant lies might as well be right, because I'd be as dead as they believed I deserve to be.

I've been advised to stay positive when my life felt totally hopeless, countless times. The fact is that keeping a brighter view of things will not magically solve any of your problems, present or future, but it will take the sting away. I've also learned over the years that when things seem unbearable and at their darkest, a change of outlook might just be the thing you need most. I know and understand that despite all the unattractive aspects life can throw at me, it isn't proof of hopeless futility that needs my attention.

I intend to remind myself of what good in people exists; nothing is absolute and humanity does have its virtues. We have a challenging time in the holidays and a harsh winter and with that I wish all the positivity in existence for everyone and the holidays replete with happiness. I wish you all well this year and the next.

We're Open!

Thrift sale Friday & Saturday 9 am - 1 pm
Drop off donations Saturday 9 am - 12 pm

Face Masks Required

Limited Capacity

Social Distance Required

Additional Safety Measures

Check our website and Facebook page for updates.

Kiwaniis Thrift Sale

100 N. Staebler Rd.
Off W. Jackson Rd. (One mile west of Zeeb Rd.)
Official Sponsor of Warm the Children

a2kiwanis.org | 734-368-9738

Exciting collaborations with Boober Tours



KEVIN SPANGLER
Groundcover vendor No. 307

This month marks my being in Ann Arbor for 6 years. I moved into the shelter for three months, saved up all my money working four jobs to get my first pedicab. Now Boober Tours has 12 motorized cabs and five trailers with another one being built. On top of that, we have an iOS app similar to Uber — but better — called Go Boober. Big things happening with Boober tours.

We got covered by the Michigan

Daily with a nice article and photo compilations. The students at the University of Michigan are doing two projects about me: a visual statement news story and an updated Boober documentary. It is very exciting to be a part of the university.

Treehouse has decided to continue to use us as an advertiser. This is super amazing because they have given us the opportunity to get a new warehouse on the westside of Ann

Arbor. Our vision now is to connect the bar scene to the hotels on the westside. Part of this vision is creating a tiny home community based on the three programs we created: 100 reasons, 33 commitments and the Royal House program.

We are glad to have sports again, basketball and hockey are treating us well. I want to give a special thanks to the students. They have been our biggest supporters.

The bust

CHRISTOPHER ELLIS
Groundcover vendor No. 483

Martin is always there, I shudder silently when I see him. But it is more than a shudder, it is an awe speaking from deep inside ... inside myself, or coming out of stone, as if the stone is the living, breathing fossil guarding a magnificent candlelight flickering, no, blazing beneath the surface.

You cannot see him from the avenue, but just move the shadow of your presence a little past the campus trees, a face comes into view.

We have heard the song of his peace, but here, now, Martin is fierce, though the sculptor would not cover the lingering man of calm. The eyes are firm, they seem to look casually, while deeply, across and beyond you, as into a future. Then you think that this is not casual, but determination, one that hasn't time for periphery. But, Martin was periphery, he was a peace soldier all across our social world.

The stone is, now, buffeted, and has a piercing sword-like appearance, and you seem afraid and want to hide from that hardness, that realness in place. Now, you seem to know that this is a reprimand, and you are caught naked

and terrified.

But, still you want to embrace our friend who we loved; you dare not; the image is too terrifying, too in another world — we must remain, we must see, here, our vision of peace.

So, that hard stone neck, formidable with the seasons, but as pristine as that sculptor's delicate fingers, moved by her own fierce voice to speak as a mountain in the whole world's space, a mountain running with hot lava to tardiness, as a red furnace to fear, and to those of us who would be killers to love, like the opening to Armageddon.



U-M player correlates with NBA Superstar



HOSEA HILL
Groundcover vendor No. 532

We've seen striking similarities between University of Michigan freshman power forward Moussa Diabate and Milwaukee Bucks uber-talented power forward, Giannis Antetokounmpo, nicknamed the Greek Freak.

Both remarkable guys stand at 6'11' and are long and strong!

Just like the Greek Freak, Diabate seems to always be around the ball, especially on defense, rebounding, and blocking shots. NBA fans are well aware of Giannis's athleticism and energy during his game play on y'all television sets, and we see Moussa's play is permeated with the same skill and traits.

The play of Moussa has been a thrilling success thus far, and I'm an excited Michigan men's basketball fan. We have reason to be cheerful and have high expectations for this upcoming March. Enjoy this season and Go Blue!

Five days of food for thought



JAY GORDON
Groundcover vendor No. 533

"A giraffe should not be concerned of the ways of the turtle. One eats from the trees, one eats from the dirt." — Clifford Harris

You are great, remember that. Hold your head high and when you do that, you'll realize what's really important to you and what really matters in life. Never worry about how or what the next person eats. You will not be the one with the stomachache.

"You can't reach what's in front of you until you let go of what's behind you." — Unknown

Let go!!! The bully from third grade doesn't care about you. The people we base certain phobias and insecurities around are moving forward. Forget them and move on. It's harder to get somewhere fast

when you got unnecessary baggage holding you back or slowing you down.

"The best relationship is when yesterday's disagreement didn't stop today's communication." — Biggs

Agree to disagree, but always move in love. If you disagree with a person you love, remember they are only wanting to protect you and love you.

"One day you're up, next day you're down, as long as you stay the same, it'll come back 'round." — How

You have to live life on life's terms. It's going to throw shit at you that could knock you off for a minute. But if you stay solid in your morals and your principles you'll be up again. You only out the game when you fold.

"Sittin' at the table plannin' plug the fan in, let the sweat dry off, then grab the cannon." — Styles P

Unfortunately, war happens in many ways in life — business, friendships, relationships. We must remember to move not in an emotional state, but, in one of real thought. Calm down, relax, breathe, then decide your proper course of action.

Loveable Toys



DENISE SHEARER
Groundcover vendor No. 485

some don't.

But toys never outgrow people! They continue to bring you joy and love no matter how old you are.

Toys are very cuddly and adorable, especially baby dolls and stuffed animals. I love to be in a room filled with toys that are for babies. They are fun and beautiful to look at. They are very relaxing to pick up and play with or just look at.

They are enjoyable any time of year.

Toys are very loveable and they bring joy to children and adults. They are colorful and beautiful. Some people outgrow toys and

GROUND COVER NEWS ADVERTISING RATES				PACKAGE PRICING	
Size	Black and White	Color	Approx. Size (W x H)		
Business card	\$49.95	\$65.95	2.5 x 1.5	Three Months/Three Issues: 15% off	
1/8	\$89.95	\$129.95	5 x 3 or 2.5 x 6.5	Six Months/Six Issues: 25% off	
1/6	\$129.95	\$165.95	5 x 4	Full Year/Twelve Issues: 35% off	
1/4	\$159.95	\$215.95	5 x 6.25	Additional 20% off ads with coupons	
1/2	\$299.95	\$399.95	10.25 x 6.5 or 5 x 13		
Full Page	\$495.95	\$669.95	10.25 x 13		

There is no wrong way to spend the holidays: New beginnings and new traditions

LEND-A-HAND NAMI Washtenaw County

Every person views the holidays in different ways. For some, they are an exciting time to celebrate with family or friends, and for others they are challenging, whether due to losses or the holidays being a reminder of past or present struggles. Each of our Lend a Hand group members has decided to share their personal experience during the holidays, with some suggestions on ways of coping that currently work for us.

Adam: Holidays for me are a weird time for a multitude of reasons. Growing up in Egypt, I was surrounded by mostly Coptic Christians who celebrate Christmas on January 7th. That never stopped people from having Christmas trees everywhere around December 25th. Going to college in Dubai, which is a strict Islamic country, I found everyone celebrating Christmas in the most ostentatious way possible. The holiday is very commercialized there. Additionally, my birthday falls on December 20th so my presents were always combined.

I don't necessarily celebrate the holidays, but I find myself surrounded by people who do even if their beliefs are not aligned with what the holidays are about. Holidays for me are a weird time because I don't understand them at all. Some people feel joy. Some people feel sadness. Some people feel nothing at all, and I don't know where I fall in that.

One thing I do love is starting my own ritual in 2019, and that's dog-sitting the cutest old puppy named Pita. She has my whole heart.

Stephanie: Holidays have been difficult for me since my Mom's passing. However, writing her out a card every year I find to be helpful and therapeutic. Doing this makes me feel more connected with her. I also enjoy making a list of what I am grateful for. Many people, myself included, have a tendency to think about what's going wrong and what we don't have, as opposed to what is going right and what we do have.

A powerful saying that has been helpful to me through my journey is by well known author and motivational speaker, Wayne Dyer: "If you change the way you look at things, the things you look at change." I also try to remind myself what a friend once told me, "The struggle is part of the story."

Mike: I enjoy the holidays. I visit family and have a nice get-together. I get to see my brother and his family. Making connections with my family

over the holidays is always enjoyable for me.

Alayna: Before the pandemic I used to visit with family and friends during the holidays. Now during the pandemic, I am unable to see them in person so it has been very important to keep communication with my friends and family through the telephone and Zoom so that I am not isolated.

Sandy: For me the holidays are overstimulating and bring on feelings of panic and grief. I prefer celebrating the season on my own. Holidays were stressful times as my parents were divorced and I was an only child. This time of year was chaotic and distressing as I was always trying to keep my parents from arguing. I feel much better making my own "personalized" holiday plans.

A favorite activity for several years has been caring for my neighbor Nancy's cat when she is on vacation. I check on Lodi twice a day and Lodi and I sometimes watch TV together. I smile when he joins me on the sofa and sits in my lap. I feel I am giving my neighbor a gift in caring for Lodi and I receive a gift in return as I don't have a pet. Lodi is a fine feline companion for the holidays.

Barb: Having traditions has been helpful to me for celebrating the holidays. Before the pandemic and after my parents died, I started a new tradition. Every year I bake cinnamon buns and put them in wearable socks along with other goodies to give to my family members when we meet to go to a movie. Last year I put everyone's socks in the mail. This year I hope to see everyone in person.

Having a predictable recurring tradition is comforting and grounding. Connecting with others can contribute to our well-being and bring joy and peace of mind.

Tracy: Before I had my own family, Christmas was bittersweet for me. I had a brother Danny, who was killed with his childhood best friend when they were 18. I was 15 and we were very close. All we had was each other as we grew up in the country.

My father was a raging alcoholic and you never knew what could set him off. We were raised pretty strict. I always envied those kids that got to wake up at noon on the weekends and watch cartoons and play. We worked. If it was winter, we loaded wood. If it was summer, we had to take care of the yard. I was raised in a "kids are meant to be seen and not heard" atmosphere. My mother was very quiet and distant. Now we are the best of friends but this

woman now is NOT the woman that raised me.

I would see my father's side of the family once a year at Christmas. My mother's family all lived down south. We saw them once a year. Both sets of grandparents lived in Florida. I don't know any of my family on either side. I don't remember that many to be honest. I do remember decorating the tree with my brother and those are fond memories.

When my parents got divorced when I was 10, everything changed. And not for the better. I vowed that when I had children, I would make the holidays the best times of their lives and full of happy memories.

About 3 years before my son was born in 1995, I accidentally created a "tradition" that we still observe every Christmas Eve. I have a huge gathering of family and friends with a feast fit for a king. Tons of laughs, silliness and LOVE. The first time I EVER missed a year was when the pandemic hit and I got COVID in December (before they had a name for it.)

Even after I divorced my children's dad, I continued the tradition. I must have my kids on Christmas Eve and they have to wake up at my house on

Christmas. Thankfully, my ex understands this.

I hope I have made a lasting impression on my children, full of only fond and fun memories. I try to treat every holiday like that with them. But my Christmas Eve gathering is a day I hope they carry on when they have their own families. I can't wait for a ton of grandkids surrounding me. Sounds like heaven.

Jadan: I love the holidays! My family and I are really close, and we usually bake cookies, play games and just joke around all throughout the holidays. I am very grateful to be able to spend time with them every year and allow our relationships to grow.

We can find our own holiday traditions, whether it be alone or with others. The key is to find things to be grateful for and seek peace and joy in whatever form they take. We need to care for ourselves. Every story is unique, and we all are trying to find what means the most to us during the holidays.

Contact information:

Website: www.namivc.org

Phone: 734-994-6611

WCCMH Access line: 734-544-3050



Agitate-Educate-Organize

Join



Today

The General Defense Committee organizes for working class and oppressed Peoples. We fight for our rights and against Capitalism, racism, patriarchy, and colonialism.

Winter holidays celebrated in Ann Arbor and why you should care

What is the first thing that comes to mind when you think of Ann Arbor? Is it the University of Michigan? Is it the food? The museums? For me, it's the people. Before becoming a student at U-M, I was raised in a small town called Mason, Michigan. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, the population there in 2019 stood at a whopping 8,487, which is almost 15 times smaller than the 2019 population of Ann Arbor (120,735).

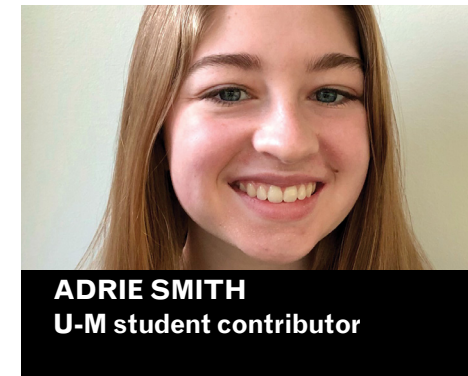
When I first moved to Ann Arbor, I'll admit it was a bit of a culture shock. My high school graduating class was around 230 students and except for two or three people, everyone was white. I grew up surrounded by people who looked like me, talked like me and thought like me. A2, on the other hand, is made up of a multitude of different races, religions and cultures

The 2019 census stated that the population of Ann Arbor is 6.8% African-American, 16.9% Asian, 4.8% Hispanic/Latino, 4.1% mixed race and 0.4% American Indian/Alaskan. This is a stark contrast from Mason, which is almost 90% white. Obviously, the lack of diversity in my hometown is less than ideal; however, it has allowed me to better appreciate all of the different cultures and traditions that make up Ann Arbor.

Learning about cultures other than your own is incredibly important because you become more open and accepting of other people. It helps you realize that no way of thinking is better than another, and that is crucial to understand especially if you live in a relatively large city such as Ann Arbor. One of the things that stood out to me the most as I started interacting with new people and making new friends was the different holiday traditions that are celebrated here. From Christmas to Eid to Hanukkah to Kwanzaa, there are so many amazing celebrations I have learned about.

Growing up, I knew of Hanukkah from books I had read or movies I had watched. I knew it was a Jewish holiday and I knew that there was this thing called a menorah, but beyond that, I was fairly ignorant. After doing some research, I discovered so much more about the celebrations that Jewish people practice around the world and, more specifically, in Ann Arbor.

ABC News gives a brief rundown of the information most important to know about the holiday. Hanukkah is celebrated for seven days and eight nights. It starts on the 25th of a Hebrew month called Kislev, and it typically



ADRIE SMITH
U-M student contributor

falls in November and/or December. The celebration lasts 8 days and 8 nights, and there is a candle-like structure called a menorah that is lit over the course of those 8 days. The primary candle in the middle is lit on the first night and is used to light an additional one each evening as the holiday progresses. Along with the menorah lighting, it is common for people to exchange gifts each night, and on the last night, there is typically a large dinner. Jewish dishes fried in oil such as potato latkes and sufganiyot (jelly donuts) are commonly served.

Since Hanukkah is a religious holiday, it makes sense that the celebrations have biblical origins. ABC news7 states, "According to biblical text, Mattathias the Hasmonian started the revolt by refusing to worship the Greek gods. Hanukkah, in particular, celebrates Judah Maccabee's victory over the Seleucids ... Maccabee could only find an amount of oil to keep the commemorative Menorah lit for one night. However, the Menorah miraculously stayed lit for eight nights." This story is the reason why those who celebrate Hanukkah light the menorah and it is one of the most important miracles of the Jewish religion.

The next holiday I was interested in learning about is Eid. Eid is an important Muslim holiday that is celebrated worldwide twice a year, but the time of year changes because the holiday is celebrated according to the lunar calendar. I was lucky enough to be able to speak with one of my good friends, Yasmeena Jones, about the holiday. Yasmeena, a current U-M freshman, is part of the Muslim community and she has celebrated Eid her entire life. She informed me that the first Eid is after the month of Ramadan, which is when Muslims fast from sunrise to sunset for 30 days. "Technically there's three days of celebration for the first Eid," Jones said, "but my family really just makes it big the first day." When I asked about her Eid traditions she told me, "We wake up and my mom makes this cultural breakfast ... and then we go to a prayer at our mosque and then after

that we go to breakfast with our family and family friends. Then we open presents - it's basically like our version of Christmas because that's when we get a lot of gifts."

The second Eid is two lunar months after the first Eid. "During that time we do the same thing ... we get presents, we go to the mosque, we pray with our community, etc. But we also do this thing called Qurbani where you sacrifice an animal," Meena said. She explained that many people will sacrifice a cow and keep the meat, but others donate it to Islamic organizations that distribute the meat to countries in need of food.

Eid is also a religious holiday. Yasmeena said that the first Eid is "to remind us to be thankful and realize that other people don't have what we have ... we're all equal in essence ... if we're all fasting during Ramadan we're all on the same playing field even if one person has more money than the other."

The second Eid has more specific religious ties because it references a story directly from the Quran where God told Abraham to sacrifice his son but a lamb came down and was sacrificed instead. "...basically we celebrate Abraham having so much faith in God," Meena explained. The lamb's sacrifice is also why they perform the Qurbani ceremony (where they sacrifice an animal themselves).

The holiday of Kwanzaa is similar to Hanukkah in that it is celebrated during the winter months. It begins every year on December 26 and goes until January 1. Unlike the other holidays, Kwanzaa is not a religious holiday. Rather, its purpose is to celebrate African-Americans and their rich cultural heritage and traditions.

There is a menorah-like object called a kinara that has 7 candles (menorahs have 9) and each candle represents one of the 7 principles: unity (umoja), self-determination (kujichagulia), collective responsibility (ujima), cooperative economics (ujamaa), purpose (nia), creativity (kuumba) and faith (imani). On the 6th day of Kwanzaa, December 31st, there is typically a huge feast called Karamu. There is also gift-giving on the last day of Kwanzaa; however, that is not the main purpose of the holiday. According to an article published by CNN, since Kwanzaa is a secular holiday, it is common for people to celebrate Kwanzaa as well as a different winter holiday such as Christmas.

Kwanzaa was created fairly recently, in 1966, by Dr. Maulana Karenga, a

professor and chairman of Black Studies at California State University. He combined different "first fruit" harvest celebrations from African communities around the world to build the foundation of the holiday. Celebrations vary from family to family but it is common to have African songs, dances, poetry reading and other cultural events.

The final winter holiday that I learned about is Christmas. Christmas is a Christian holiday that celebrates the birth of Jesus Christ, and I grew up surrounded by Christmas celebrations both within my family and the families of my peers. Christmastime is my favorite time of year, which is why I hold my Christmas traditions very close to my heart.

Families celebrate Christmas in different ways; however, there are some basic traditions that are celebrated by virtually everyone who participates in the holiday. Firstly, most families either physically cut down and buy a real pine tree or purchase a fake Christmas tree to put up in their home for the majority of the month of December. On Christmas Eve, December 24th, children typically have trouble falling asleep because "Santa Claus" drops off presents for everyone in the middle of the night. Christmas Day is always on December 25th, and on that day gifts are exchanged, the family gathers together, and there's normally some sort of large dinner.

In my family, we always get our Christmas tree the day after Thanksgiving and my dad makes his homemade cinnamon rolls. On Christmas Eve we always go to church, then we go to my grandma's house and exchange presents. Christmas morning is, in my opinion, the best morning of the entire year. My dad makes scrambled eggs and my mom, my sisters, and I all make monkey bread for breakfast. Then, we open up more presents before heading to my other grandparents' house to celebrate with my dad's side of the family.

Educating myself on all of these different holidays has opened my eyes and allowed me to understand and appreciate the different cultures that surround me here in Ann Arbor. Now that I have left my hometown, I've realized what I had been missing out on. I am so lucky to be immersed in such a great, diverse community. Whether you live here in Ann Arbor or a small farm town like Mason, I strongly encourage you to learn as much as you can about other people; you never know what you'll find out!

Gratitude to Dr. Robert Sellers: U-M Chief Diversity Officer and Vice Provost for Equity & Inclusion

On October 12 the University of Michigan unveiled the five-year progress report on a strategic plan for improving diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI) at U-M. Prior to the plan's October 2016 launch, U-M started a campus-wide conversation and community engagement on the topic of DEI during the months of January, February and March 2016. U-M President Mark Schlissel appointed Dr. Robert Sellers to lead the efforts for a successful program design, implementation and evaluation. There have been DEI Summits every year on U-M campus since 2016. Those summits are sometimes referred to as Community Conversations.

What stood out in the yearly summits or conversations was how the concept and techniques of citizen participation or involvement were maximized at the Ann Arbor campus. It was reported that "thousands of faculty, staff and students from across the Ann Arbor campus participated in more than 210 community engagement events and activities (focus groups, town halls, online forums, fireside chats, surveys, feedback bulletin boards, and more) in an effort to provide feedback and guide the strategic planning process."

Year one of the DEI Summit reported 225 staff members attended campus-wide staff town hall meetings; about 450 students attended student town hall meetings; more than 2,500 attendees at the Diversity Summit and Community Assembly; and approximately 1000 ideas were contributed by the participants.

Numerous and varied community conversations occurred between March, 2019 and the fall of 2021. They were held in locations around Ann Arbor, though only online during most of the pandemic.

The executive summary of the DEI Progress Report of October 11 said that years one through four were "creating momentum for sustained, systemic progress in DEI." Year Five is described as "a milestone in the ongoing work of institutional culture change."

Dr. Sellers commented in the Progress Report, "The results of this evaluation process will guide our planning of the next DEI plan—DEI 2.0. As a result, I anticipate even stronger DEI plans going into the future, as there will be more evidence-based outcomes to use as a framework, compared to our original plans."

It is also remarkable that Dr. Sellers and his staff have likened DEI to a



WILL SHAKESPEARE
Groundcover vendor No. 258

"Dance Party." In their own words, Diversity is where everyone is invited to the party; Inclusion means that everyone gets to contribute to the playlist; and Equity means that everyone has the opportunity to dance. The author wishes to recommend two sing-along songs to the DEI playlist: "What A Wonderful World" by Louis Armstrong and "I Believe That Children Are Our Future" by Whitney Houston.

The Groundcover News community is interested in the impact of the DEI process and implementation on the campus climate. We are interested in learning how the U-M DEI strategic plan led to increased recruitment and retention of underserved and disadvantaged communities. We are also interested in seeing how the DEI efforts have affected learning, teaching, research, public service and community engagement.

The executive summary is comprehensive. It states, "Year Five of DEI Strategic Plan marked substantial effort and progress in a time of formidable challenges. Chief among those challenges: an unrelenting global pandemic, a racial reckoning expressed through massive protests and violent counter-protests and the most divisive political climate in recent memory. As a community, the University of Michigan weathered these historic events, utilizing DEI principles to move through the process. Together, with the continued commitment of university leadership, the dedication of DEI staff, the tireless efforts of DEI unit leads, the resilience of the students, faculty and staff across campus, and the guidance and support from the office of diversity, equity, and inclusion, our community continued to make important DEI progress."

Thank You Dr. Sellers for a Job Well Done

Dr. Sellers arrived in Ann Arbor as a graduate student in the Department



Trotter House began as a Black Student Cultural Center, birthed out of the Black Action Movement on U-M campus in 1971. Trotter has since expanded its mission to be a multicultural center and in 2019 opened a new facility on South State St.



Dr. Robert Sellers recently stepped down as U-M's first Chief Diversity Officer and Vice Provost for Equity and Inclusion. He oversaw the design and implementation of a program to increase diversity, inclusion and equity at U-M.

of Psychology. The racial climate at the University of Michigan was tense and stressful. In the late 1980s, the Black Action Movement and the United Coalition Against Racism held frequent demonstrations at the Diag and the Fleming Administration Building. The students wanted an end to racist graffiti in dorm rooms and hallways. They wanted a more diverse, inclusive and equitable campus. They wanted a safer campus. They wanted the recruitment and retention of more disadvantaged minority students, and the recruitment of more female and minority faculty.

The university responded with a cursory report, "The Michigan Mandate." Sellers was one of the graduate student volunteers who impressed on the university the need to devote more resources for recruitment,

retention and mentoring. When he became a faculty member, he went the extra mile to help recruit, train, and mentor numerous students in the Psychology and Education Departments. There was campus-wide joy when President Schlissel picked Sellers as the university's Chief Diversity Officer and Vice Provost for Equity and Inclusion.

As the captain of the DEI sailboat, he has calmly navigated the boat through troubled and turbulent waters. With the DEI progress, the center is holding on the U-M campus. Sellers is U-M's first Chief Diversity Officer. He plans to step down from his position this month and return to faculty.

In his thank you and farewell remarks, President Schlissel said, "The successes of DEI 1.0 would not have been possible without his [Dr. Sellers'] commitment to broad collaborations, his tremendous dedication to making U-M a better place for all, and his steadfast leadership that has inspired a university community of more than 100,000 individuals." Schlissel continued, "I have very much appreciated his friendship, wise counsel, and tireless advocacy for diversity, equity, and inclusion. Thank you Rob and thank you all for your outstanding work on behalf of our great University."

Wise people say that gratitude is a memory of the heart. We are grateful to Dr. Sellers and his DEI staff and volunteers. We are also grateful to the U-M president, provost, students, faculty, and staff. Bravo!

Sudoku ★★★★★☆ 4puz.com

1			4	6				
7					9		3	2
9								8
8				3			7	
	7			2			9	
	4			1				5
2								3
3	5		2					4
				5	6			7

Fill in the squares so that each row, column, and 3-by-3 box contain the numbers 1 through 9.

THANK YOU FOR EXPRESSING GENEROSITY TO
GROUNDCOVER NEWS VENDORS THIS HOLIDAY
SEASON

IF YOU WOULD ALSO LIKE TO BLESS THIS
ORGANIZATION, YOU CAN MAKE A DONATION:
SEND US A CHECK AT 423 S. 4TH AVE ANN ARBOR, MI 48104
OR USE THE DONATE BUTTON AT GROUNDCOVERNEWS.ORG

Bethlehem United Church of Christ

whoever you are, and wherever you are on life's journey, you are welcome here

423 S. Fourth Avenue, Ann Arbor, MI 48104 734-665-6149

Bethlehem-ucc.org facebook.com/bethlehemuccA2

Bethlehem Church is home of the Groundcover office



DECEMBER 2021 EVENTS AT BETHLEHEM

In person events are just starting to resume at BUCC. We ask that you visit the church website at: bethlehem-ucc.org for the most up-to-date calendar and event information.

DECEMBER 24 – CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES 5:00 & 7:30 PM



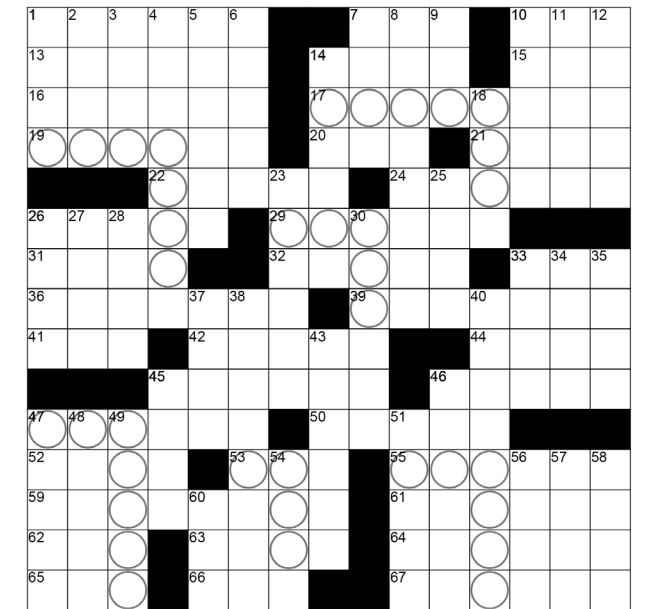
Sunday Worship Time
10:00 am In-person
and via Live Stream and
Radio Broadcast

Star Turn

by Tracy Bennett and Victor Fleming

ACROSS

1. Records of city councils and the like
7. Spot for a mani-pedi
10. Traditional frying pan
13. Comb-over alternative
14. Victor's cry
15. ___ Records (record label for Sony Music Entertainment)
16. Surfing, in a way
17. Awnings, but not a container of veggies
19. Where Marie Curie was born
20. John and Yoko's Plastic ___ Band
21. It touches a corner of New Mexico
22. "Old ___ the Beau" (punny title of a classic fiddler's tune)
24. Aircraft company based in Wichita
26. Dance hit, sometimes
29. Civil liberties
31. Astonishes
32. Big name in fast trains
33. Off-road ride, briefly
36. They've got mail
39. Buick sedan until 2005
41. Calypso kin
42. Jung's inner self
44. Go cold turkey, say
45. Does perfectly on a test
46. Lincolns, but not Hardings
47. Stag topper
50. Maternal supporter during and after labor
52. ___ of faith
53. Act the couch potato
55. Quaint Shakespearean address
59. Body of peers



© 2021 Tracy Bennett and Victor Fleming (published via Adobe Acrobat)

61. Pungent Italian cheese
62. Certain 33-Across
63. Local educ. support group
64. Overcharges big time
65. Yasin Bey's former stage name ___ Def
66. Brick, e.g.
67. Make certain
8. 48-card game
9. "That's ___-brainer"
10. Court orders
11. "Midnight zone" milieu
12. Buckwheat porridge
14. Like Rosie the Riveter or Wonder Woman
18. Cat or kisser
23. Citizens of Rasht and Shiraz
25. LAX stats
26. Megan Thee Stallion performances
27. "Return of the Jedi" creature
28. "Wild Horse ___"
30. Frozen treat
33. Lie against
34. Modest combo
35. Site of the Ann Arbor Skate park, informally
37. What some may carry for self-defense
38. Deprive of strength
40. The Water Bearer, astrologically
43. Winged biters
45. Iams alternative
46. "Fun Home" memoirist Bechdel
47. Adele's "30," for one
48. "Awesomesauce!"
49. Scale weights
51. Accepted practice
54. "Criminy!"
56. Saucy brand
57. Antiquing aid
58. Cheat, in slang
60. WEMU is one its member stations

"Solidarity is another name for the kind of love that moves feet, hands, hearts, material goods, assistance, and sacrifice toward the pain, danger, misfortune, disaster, repression, or death of other persons or a whole people. The aim is to share with each other, to help rise up, to become free, to claim the human dignity and justice that all people are entitled."

— Author unknown

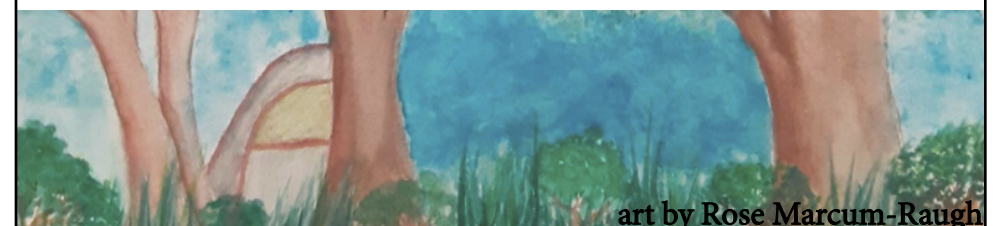


Washtenaw Camp Outreach is a community outreach group made up of individuals from various walks of life. The aim is to connect with others in the struggle, share resources and supplies, and assist others to live how they choose. We believe housing is a human right — whether that is a tent, apartment building or a house. We defend everyone's right to a home without fear of being displaced.

Donate camping gear for your neighbors sleeping outside in the winter cold: propane, sleeping bags, tents, hand warmers, Buddy Heaters, tarps or \$\$

Message on Facebook @washcampoutreach for donation drop-off locations

Community meals every other Sunday (December 12th and 26th), 3:30pm



art by Rose Marcum-Raugh

Apricot chicken

ELIZABETH BAUMAN
Groundcover contributor

This is a friend's "go-to" recipe when she wants a delicious easy meal to serve to guests.

Ingredients:

1 8-oz. bottle Catalina dressing
1 envelope dry onion soup mix
1 12-oz. jar apricot jam
8 skinless, boneless chicken breasts

Directions:

Mix the first 3 ingredients and blend well.

Arrange the chicken in a shallow pan and pour all but one cup of the

mixture over the top (make sure to cover all the chicken).

Cover with a loose layer of aluminum foil and bake for 30 minutes, basting occasionally. Uncover and add the last cup of mixture.

Remove cover and continue baking for 15 more minutes. Serve with wild or cilantro-lime rice.



Sad bells still ring

RON PAGERESKI
Groundcover contributor

Church bells ring throughout the city, but passing faces show no pity. Christmas time is here once more, but there is no pity for the poor. People dressed in holiday finest, but forget to show a little kindness to those who walk the streets alone sad, cold, without a home. There are no gifts beneath their tree, like those given to you and me. They only want a little cheer, in this most holy time of year. Reach out to them, give some hope to those near the end of their rope. On their minds are places warm, as on their cheeks the teardrops form. They get no gifts, hope, not a thing, but in the night the church bells ring.



Support an Alternative Business Model Local - Organic - Member-Owned



312 N. River St.
(734) 483-1520
www.ypsifoodcoop.org

Your Ypsilanti source for healthy, eco-friendly food and goods
INVEST BY BECOMING A MEMBER!

7 principles of Co-ops
Voluntary, Democratic, Equitable, Independent,
Informative, Collaborative, Community

We make it affordable:
Frequent Sales/Use Your Bridge card/Ask us about Double Up Food Bucks

Visit us
for local,
handmade
holiday gifts too

\$2 OFF
your purchase
of \$15 or more

One coupon per transaction
Must present coupon at time of purchase



FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF ANN ARBOR

No matter where you are on your faith journey, or how you worship, we welcome you to help us build our community. This includes all races and ethnicities, sexual orientations, gender identities, ages and stages of life, abilities and disabilities, and socioeconomic backgrounds.

Worship With Us!

Downtown, Sundays at 10:30 a.m. | Green Wood, Saturdays at 5 p.m.

Livestreaming on YouTube at FUMCannarbor

FUMC-A2.ORG

120 S. State St., Ann Arbor, MI 48104

1001 Green Road, Ann Arbor, MI 48105

PUZZLE SOLUTIONS

1	8	2	4	6	3	7	5	9
7	6	4	5	8	9	1	3	2
9	3	5	1	7	2	6	4	8
8	2	9	6	3	5	4	7	1
5	7	1	8	2	4	3	9	6
6	4	3	9	1	7	2	8	5
2	9	6	7	4	8	5	1	3
3	5	7	2	9	1	8	6	4
4	1	8	3	5	6	9	2	7

A	N	N	A	L	S		S	P	A		W	O	K
T	O	U	P	E	E		I	W	I	N		R	C
O	N	L	I	N	E		C	A	N	O	P	I	E
P	O	L	A	N	D		O	N	O		U	T	A
			R	O	S		I	N		C	E	S	S
R	E	M	I	X			R	I	G	H	T	S	
A	W	E	S				A	C	E	L	A		A
P	O	S	T	M	E	N		L	E	S	A	B	R
S	K	A		A	N	I	M	A			Q	U	I
			A	C	E	S	I	T		A	U	T	O
A	N	T	L	E	R		D	O	U	L	A		
L	E	A	P			V	E	G		S	I	R	R
B	A	R	O	N	A	G	E			A	S	I	A
U	T	E		P	T	A	S			G	O	U	G
M	O	S		R	E	D				E	N	S	U

**IT'S COLD AND
FLU SEASON!**

It's all about self-care
be sure to stock up
on the essentials.

\$2 OFF

ANY PURCHASE OF \$15 OR MORE

One coupon per transaction. Must present coupon at the time of purchase. Coupon good for in-store only. No other discounts or coop cards apply. Not valid for gift cards, case purchases, beer or wine.



OFFER
EXPIRES
12/31/2021



PEOPLE'S FOOD CO-OP
NATURAL FOODS MARKET & DELI

216 N. FOURTH AVENUE ANN ARBOR, MI
PHONE (734) 994-9174 • PEOPLESFOOD.COOP



St. Francis invites you

to come and meet Christ Jesus who
loves each one of us and who is really
present here to save us.

"If God were your Father, you would love me,
for I came from God and am here;
I did not come on my own, but he sent me."

+ Christ Jesus (John 8:42)

Mass Times:

Saturday Vigil 5 pm & 7 pm (español);

Sunday 8:30am, 10:30am, 12:30pm.

Daily Mon-Fri at 9:15am; Thurs Mass
is followed by a Holy Hour.

Friday, December 24 (Christmas Vigil):
4:00pm, 6:00pm, 8:00pm (Spanish) & 10:30pm.

Saturday: December 25 (Nativity of the Lord):
9:30am & 11:30am

Sunday, December 26 (Feast of the Holy Family):
8:30am, 10:30am & 12:30pm